

CLAIMS

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A method for reconnecting a client to a host service, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a first connection between a client and a first protocol service, and a second connection between the first protocol service and a host service;
 - (b) detecting a disruption in the first connection;
 - (c) re-establishing the first connection between the client and the first protocol service while maintaining the second connection between the first protocol service and the host service;
 - (d) receiving at the first protocol service a ticket associated with the client;
 - (e) validating the ticket; and
 - (f) linking, after the ticket is validated, the re-established first connection to the maintained second connection.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises authenticating the client with the host service during a first

communication session between the client and the host service.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (e) further comprises obtaining, from the ticket, a key and session id.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein step (e) further comprises using the session id from the ticket to retrieve encrypted authentication credentials.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein step (e) further comprises using the key from the ticket to decrypt the retrieved authentication credentials.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein step (e) further comprises re-authenticating the client with the host service using the decrypted authentication credentials.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein step (f) further comprises deleting, after the ticket is validated, the ticket.
8. The method of claim 2 wherein step (f) further comprises generating, after the ticket is deleted, a replacement ticket.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises generating a ticket at the first protocol service.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein step (a) further comprises saving, at the first protocol service, a copy of the ticket.
11. The method of claim 4 wherein step (a) further comprises transmitting the ticket from the first protocol service to the client.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises deleting the ticket automatically after a pre-determined period of time.
13. A system for reconnecting a client to a host service, the system comprising:
 - a client configured to maintain a first connection with a first protocol service; and
 - the first protocol service configured to maintain the first connection with the client and a second connection with the host service, wherein:
 - a disruption is detected in the first connection;
 - the first connection is re-established between the client

and the first protocol service while the second connection between the first protocol service and the host service is maintained;

a ticket associated with the client is transmitted from the client to the first protocol service;

the ticket is validated; and

after the ticket is validated, the re-established first connection is linked to the maintained second connection.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the client is authenticated with the host service during a first communication session between the client and the host service.
15. The system of claim 13 wherein the ticket comprises a key and session id.
16. The system of claim 15 wherein the ticket is validated by the first protocol service using the session id to retrieve encrypted authentication credentials.
17. The system of claim 16 wherein the ticket is further validated by decrypting the retrieved authentication credentials with the key from the ticket.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the client is re-authenticated with the host service using the decrypted authentication credentials.
19. The system of claim 13 wherein the first protocol service is further configured to delete, after the ticket is validated, the ticket.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the first protocol service is further configured to generate, after the ticket is deleted, a replacement ticket.
21. The system of claim 13 wherein the first protocol service is further configured to generate the ticket.
22. The system of claim 12 wherein the first protocol service is further configured to save a copy of the ticket.
23. The system of claim 13 wherein the first protocol service is further configured to transmit the ticket to the client.
24. The system of claim 13 wherein the first protocol service is further configured to automatically delete the ticket after a pre-determined period of time.

